

EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

"To enhance the quality of life in our community by maintaining a positive working relationship with our community that inspires trust and confidence in our ability to preserve the peace, reduce crime, the perception of crime, and to protect life and property within the framework of the United States Constitution."

VALUES

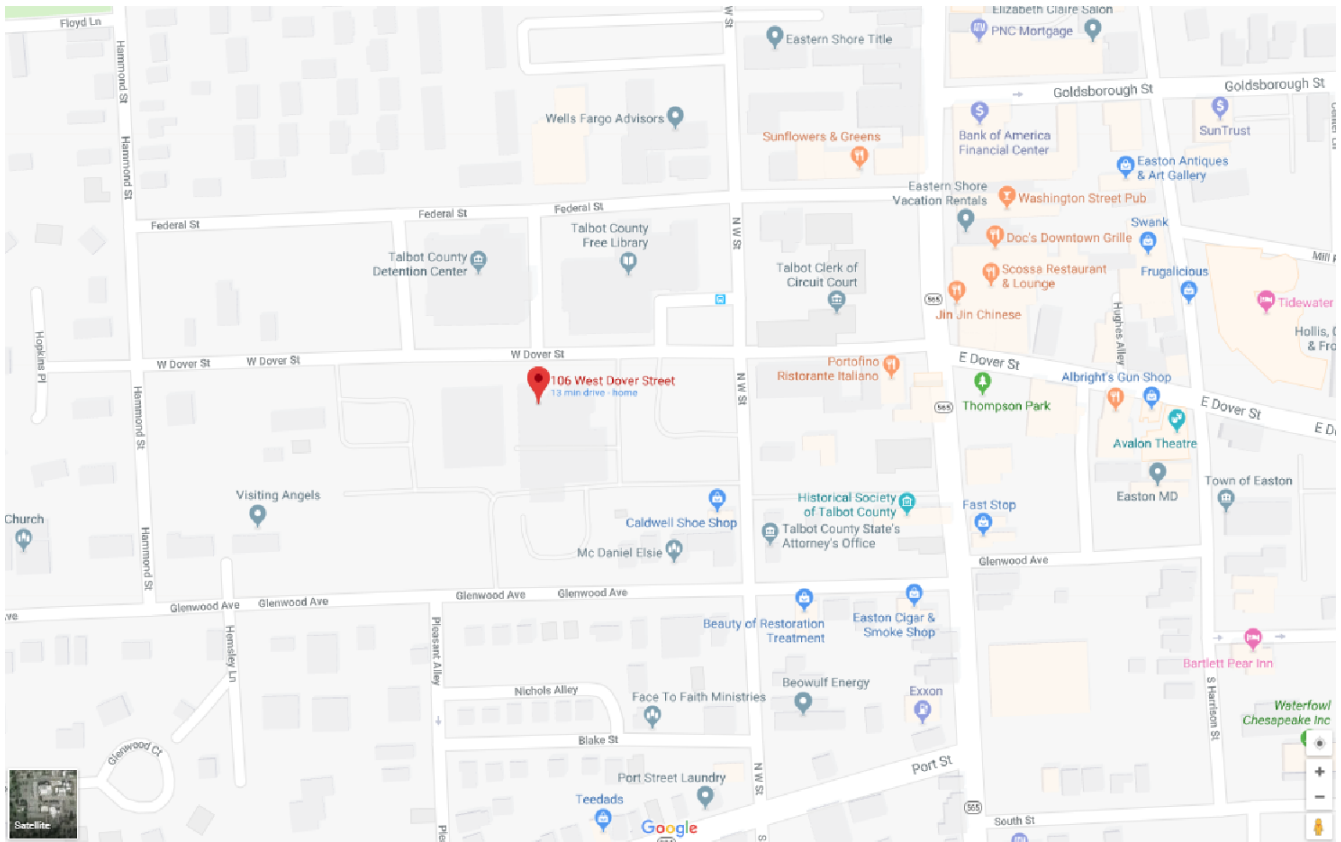
Members of the Easton Police Department take pride in our professional accomplishments and abilities to protect the citizens of Easton. We are dedicated to the concept of personal excellence at the highest level with uncompromising integrity. We recognize that we are held individually accountable for the reflection of the following core values in both our professional and personal lives:

FAIRNESS: To earn the respect and trust of all segments of our diverse community by treating all people in a fair, unbiased and impartial manner.

ACCOUNTABILITY: To be accountable to our Oath of Office, the Law Enforcement Profession and the Citizens that we serve.

INTEGRITY: To uphold the public trust through unwavering honesty and by demonstrating the highest standards of ethical and moral character, in our personal and professional lives, so as to bring honor to our profession, our department and ourselves.

RESPECT: To treat each other with the same respect and dignity that we demand be given to those we serve.



Our telephone numbers are:

Main: 410-822-1111 Fax Line: 410-822-3847

Crime Tips: 410-763-6140 Administration: 410-763-6120

Records Unit: 410-763-6125

Property Unit: 410-822-1111, Ext. 2317



Follow us on Social Media at the links listed below:

Easton Police Department Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Easton-MD-Police-Department-437949686267548/?fref=ts>

Easton Police Department Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/EastonPoliceMD>

HOW TO SUBMIT A CRIME TIP

There are two ways you can anonymously submit a crime tip to the Easton Police Department.

1. You can call our tip line at (410) 763-6140 and leave a message.
2. You can also submit a tip right online at our website, <http://eastonmd.gov/Police/Tip.html>, and click on WebTips. If this is an urgent matter do not submit your tip here alone. Call us at (410) 822- 1111, or if it is an emergency call 911.

HOW TO OBTAIN AN ACCIDENT REPORT

To obtain a copy of an accident report go online to: <http://www.crashdocs.org/md-townofeaston> .

You will need the following information to obtain the report.

1. The last name of the vehicle operator or any victim.
2. A valid email address for yourself.
3. The date of the accident.
4. The accident report number. It should have been given to you at the accident scene by the officer and should begin with EPD.

Please allow 5-7 days for the report to be approved and submitted. If the report is not available online at that time please contact our Records Unit at 410-763-6125.

HOW TO OBTAIN A POLICE REPORT

In Person: Contact the Records Unit and determine if the report is available for release. Go to the Town Office at 14 South Harrison Street and pay for a copy of the report. Take the receipt for payment to the Easton Police Records Unit to receive your copy.

By Mail: Contact the Records Unit and determine if the report is available for release. Send a self addressed, stamped envelope with a check or money order to: Town of Easton, PO Box 520, Easton MD 21601. Please be sure to include the report number in the memo section of the check or money order.

A MESSAGE FROM

Chief David Spencer

As the Chief of the Easton Police Department, I want to thank you for taking the time to read our 2020 annual report. This document illustrates the hard work and dedication of the men and women of our police department. You will also learn how the department is structured to complete our operational missions. I would like to highlight one of the main challenges that we faced in 2020. This challenge was felt around the globe, and that is COVID-19. COVID-19 compelled us to alter our operational strategies and to adjust our police resources. We personally felt the effects of COVID-19, as we had members become affected with the virus. We are thankful that none of our cases have been too serious. We will continue to evolve with our plans, policies, and responses to mitigate the threats of the virus that it causes to our agency and the community that we served.

Our agency has an authorized strength of 48 sworn officers, 8 support staff and 1 part-time vehicle maintenance person. We currently have 8 open positions for police officer, we have 3 recruits in the Police Academy who are scheduled to graduate June 17, 2021. The Department is divided into 3 major Divisions, with each commanded by a Lieutenant: Patrol Division, Special Operations Division and Support Services Division. The Patrol Division consists of 4 uniformed Squads whose main functions are patrol duties consisting of crime prevention through traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, motor vehicle crash investigations and responding to calls for service. Members assigned to this division are responsible for the continuous delivery of police services to the community and provide a variety of police functions and services. Within the patrol division is our K9 Units, Parking Enforcement, and School Crossing personnel.

The Department's Special Operations Division includes criminal investigators, narcotics investigators and bicycle officers. This unit's main function is to conduct more complex criminal investigations, enforce the narcotics laws and patrol the town on bikes.

The Department's Support Services Division is responsible for the Department's Records Function, Property and Evidence, Facility and Fleet Management, and Quartermaster duties. The Department also has specialized units that consist of highly skilled officers who receive additional training, in addition to their normal in-service training. The specialized units are: Crisis Response Unit (Tactical Team-Crisis Negotiators), Mobile Field Force Unit, Accident Reconstruction Unit, Honor Guard Unit, and the Crisis Intervention Team Unit.

We continue to fight against illegal drugs with our emphasis on the opioid epidemic. All of our officers have been trained and carry narcan on duty. In 2020, we had 47 reported cases of drug overdoses which resulted in 5 fatalities. Narcan was administered 30 times by the Easton Police Department.

In 2020, we investigated 367 Part 1 crimes, which include robberies, burglary, rape, 1st degree assault, arson, Motor vehicle thefts. We also investigated 557 Part 2 crimes, which are the less serious crimes. In 2020, we responded to 21,181 calls for service, issues 2,170 citations and 5,725 warnings for traffic violations while making 50 DWI Arrests. 257 traffic collisions were reported in 2020 resulting in 0 fatalities, 41 involving personal injury, 160 involved property damage, and 148 were exchange of information only. Criminal Investigations resulted in 578 adult arrests along with 142 juvenile referrals. Officers also made 142 arrest for violations of the Controlled Dangerous Substance Laws. The Internal Affairs Unit investigated 5 personnel complaints during the year.

Command Staff



David A. Spencer

Chief of Police



Gregory S. Wright

Deputy Chief of Police



Mark D. Hrobar

Support Services Division-
Commander



George L. Paugh, III

Patrol Division-
Commander

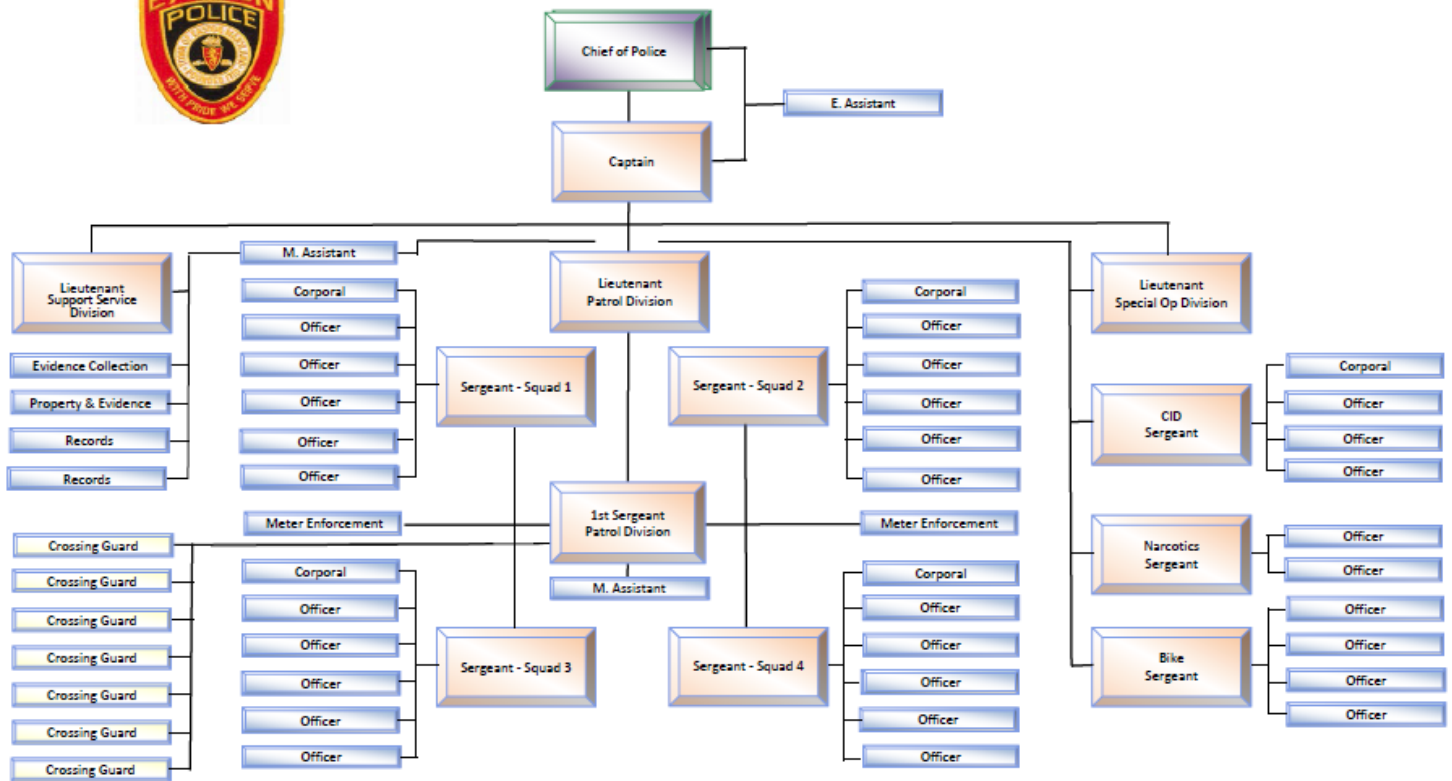


Bradley T. Hughes

Special Operations Division-
Commander

2020

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



1/22/2021

Sworn Personnel

- 1 Chief
- 1 Deputy Chief
- 3 Lieutenant
- 1 1st Sergeant
- 7 Sergeants
- 6 Corporals
- 5 Detectives
- 12 Officers
- 2 Evidence Collection

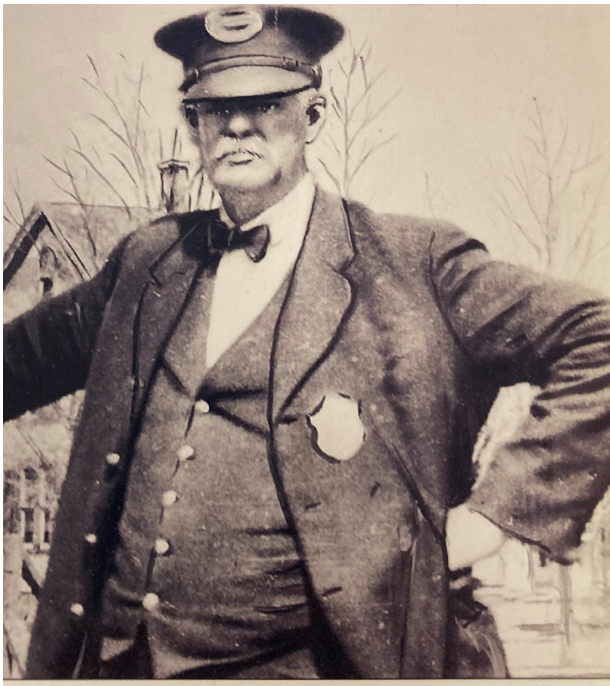
Civilian Personnel

- 2 Records
- 1 Property
- 3 Executive Admin

HISTORY OF EASTON, MD

1906

The year 1906 saw the victorious conclusions of a long waged battle by Martin Higgins, he began urging for the creation of a new charter for the Town of Easton. Several meeting were held over a six week period and a new Charter was written. As a result the first election held under the new Charter revealed Mr. Martin Higgins became the Mayor. One of his first actions as mayor was to put uniforms on the “Cartmen” and they became the Easton Police Department. They wore a dark blue suit with vest, a cadet style cap with a medallion and a badge worn on the left breast. Shown here is Chief Charles A. Stoops, picture take in 1907.



Patrol Division



Lt. George L. Paugh, III
Patrol Commander

The Easton Police Department’s Patrol Division is the heartbeat of the department that provides quality law enforcement to the residents and visitors of the Town of Easton 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This division embraces the concepts of Community Oriented Policing and strives to further enhance its partnership with the community.

The Patrol Division is comprised of four patrol squads, each with a supervisor at the rank of Sergeant, an assistant supervisor at the rank of Corporal and squad members ranking from Patrolman to Master Patrolman First Class. The squads work a rotating schedule of a 12-hour day shift and night shift. We staff these squad strategically with officers that are assigned to specialty units within the department. Each patrol squad has the following:

- 1. One K9 Unit
- 2. Two officers assigned to the Tactical Unit
- 3. One Unmanned Arial Vehicle Pilot Unit

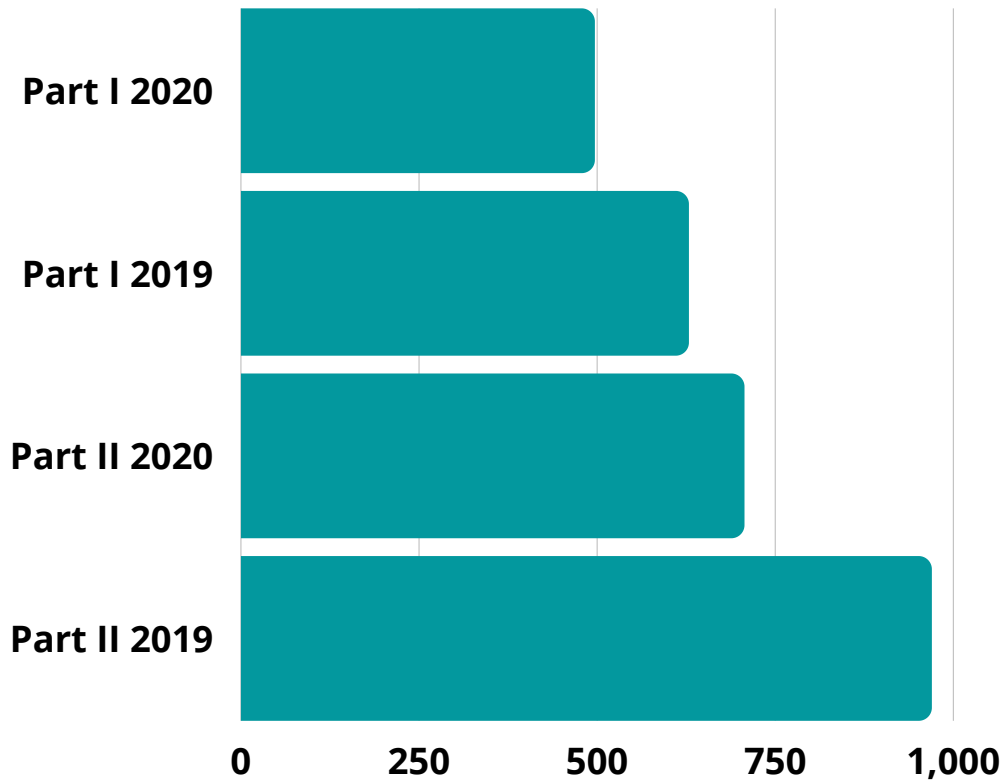
When fully staffed each Squad has 7 officers. This division also has 2 Meter Enforcement Officers and a Management Assistant. The patrol division is commanded by a Lieutenant that is assisted by 1 First Sergeant- for a total manpower allocation of 30 officers and 3 civilians.

Patrol Squads	Squad 1	Squad 2	Squad 3	Squad 4	Totals
Reports	626	409	501	629	2,165
Criminal Arrests	142	66	88	151	447
CDS Citations	58	33	39	49	179
CDS Arrests	34	17	22	54	127
DWI Arrests	20	1	5	12	38
Accient Reports	84	77	87	78	326
Traffic Citations	1,042	313	305	456	2,116
Traffic Warnings	1,387	941	990	1,558	4,876
Equipment Repair Orders	41	65	93	32	231
Underage Posession	1	11	0	0	12

PART I AND II CRIMES

2020-2019

Part I Crimes	2020	2019	Increase/Decrease
Murder	0	1	-1
Rape	9	9	+0
Robbery	9	15	-6
Burglary	48	31	+17
Assault	159	192	-33
Theft	271	380	-109
Part II Crimes	2020	2019	Increase/Decrease
MDOP	87	101	-14
CDS	272	374	-102
Fraud	46	39	+7
Disorderly Conduct	11	27	-16
Miscellaneous	290	428	-138



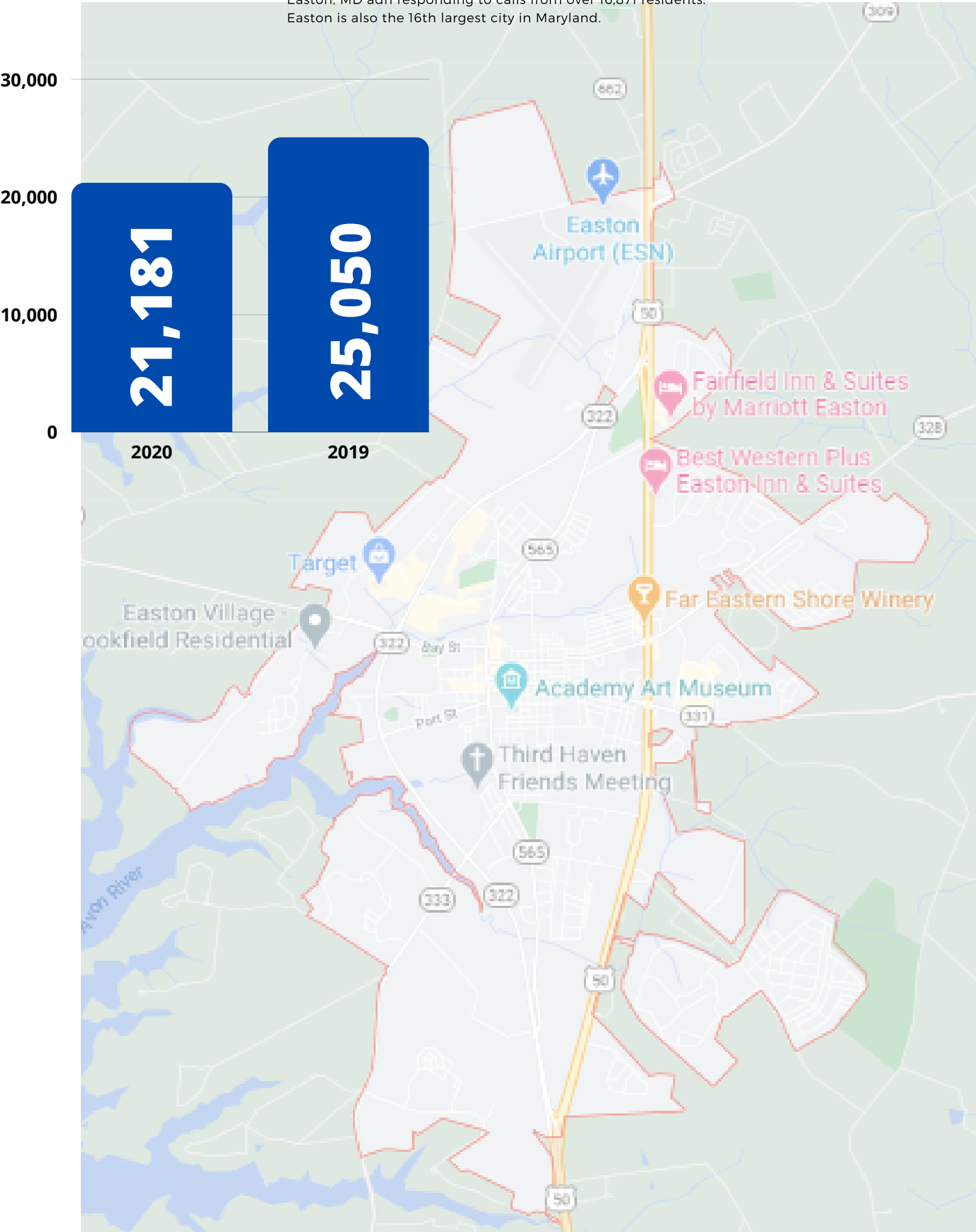
CRIME DATA AND STATISTICS

ADULT CRIMINAL ARRESTS

Adult Arrests	2020	2019	Increase/Decrease
Arson	1	2	-1
Assault	99	127	-28
Burglary	15	12	+3
CDS	123	167	-44
Disorderly Conduct	14	18	-4
Fraud	6	9	-3
Liquor Law Violation	19	4	+15
MDOP	20	44	-24
Motor Vehicle Theft	11	6	+5
Rape	4	3	+1
Robbery	8	7	+1
Sex Offense	7	11	-4
Theft	115	152	-37
Weapons Violation	14	7	+7
Totals	456	569	-113

Calls for Service

The officers are responsible for patrolling the 11.5 square miles of Easton, MD and responding to calls from over 16,871 residents. Easton is also the 16th largest city in Maryland.



CRIME DATA AND STATISTICS

JUVENILE CRIMINAL ARRESTS

Juvenile Arrests	2020	2019	Increase/Decrease
Arson	0	0	+0
Assault	8	21	-13
Burglary	0	0	+0
CDS	19	9	+10
Disorderly Conduct	1	10	-9
MDOP	4	10	-6
Rape	0	0	+0
Robbery	2	1	+1
Runaway	6	7	-1
Sex Offense	2	1	+1
Theft	7	9	-2
Weapons Violation	2	0	+2
Totals	51	68	-17

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND COLLISION DATA

SPEED CAMERA ENFORCEMENT DATA

Photo Enforcement Location	Tickets 2020	Tickets 2019	Increase/Decrease
Peachblossom Rd. @ Easton Middle School	3,701	1,587	+2,114
Goldsborough- Country School	1,978	1,705	+273
Total	5,679	3,292	+2,387

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DATA

Citation Offense	2020	2019	Increase/Decrease
Excessing Speed	2,647	4,498	-1,851
Seatbelt Violation	221	326	-105
Cellphone Violations	300	488	-188
Driving without license	160	69	91
Driving while suspended	360	476	-116
Driving with suspended out of state license	33	33	0
Failure to display license	241	360	-119
Failure to display registration	376	706	-330
Driving with suspended registration	37	126	-89
Driving uninsured motor vehicle	27	57	-30

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND COLLISION DATA

Enforcement Type	2020	2019	Increase/Decrease
Traffic Citations	2,170	3,657	-1,487
Traffic Warnings	5,725	9,165	-3,440
Equipment Repair Orders	309	627	-318
Total	8,204	13,449	-5,245
Collision Location	2,020	2,019	Increase/Decrease
Ocean Gateway	203	133	70
Route 322	38	33	+5
All other streets	542	239	+303
Personal Injury	41	80	-39
Property Damage	160	159	+1
Fatals	0	3	-0



EST 2016

K9 KATO

M.PFC. STEPHEN TINDALL



EST 2018

K9 MURPH

PFC. JOSEPH SCHINAULT



EST 2018

K9 DIETZ

PFC. ANTHONY CULLINGS



EST 2019

K9 AXE

PFC. ASHLEY BAYNE

Special Operations Division



Lt. Bradley T. Hughes
Commander of Special Operations

The Easton Police Department Special Operations Division is responsible for the investigative function for criminal and drug enforcement within the Town of Easton.

The Easton Police Department Special Operations Division is comprised of three units, Criminal Investigations Division, Narcotics Unit and Bicycle Patrol Unit.

Each unit has a supervisor at the rank of Sergeant and unit members ranking from Patrolman to Corporal. The units use a teamwork approach to investigations and enforcement and often work together as the investigation or enforcement action dictate. The units work a combination of schedules that allow for the maximum coverage during investigative and enforcement periods.

The current staffing allocation for the Special Operations Division is 12 officers, to include 3 Sergeants, 2 Corporals and 1 Lieutenant for a total manpower allocation of 13 officers.

Speical Operations	CID	Narc	Bike	Totals
Investigations	127	17	27	171
Criminal Reports	70	68	16	154
Criminal Arrests	44	47	11	102
Adult	40	38	14	92
Juvenile	4	4	0	8
Total Arrests	44	42	14	100
Felony	21	13	N/A	34
Misdemeanor	23	3	N/A	26
Supplements	462	85	17	564
Speical Events	N/A	N/A	23	23

K9 STATISTICS



Canine Teams	Totals
Money Seizures	\$1,608.00
Vehicle Scans	224
Vehicle Finds	110
Vehicle Alerts	175
Deployments	246
Arrests	70
Reports	246
Drug Snuff	187
Fleeing Suspect	1
Assist other agencies	48
Tracks	3

Drug Seizures	Totals
Meth	1
Cocaine	10.15 grams
Heroin	86 capsules
Heroin Powder	17.70 grams
MDMA	6 capsules
Prescription Pills	3 pills
Marijuana	4.5 pounds
THC Oil	19

In 2020 The Easton Police Department's K9 department trained for a total of 493.5 hours. This includes K9 Kato, K9 Murph, and K9 Dietz. K9 Axe was in Drug Detection School for 16 weeks.





Support Services



Lt. Mark D. Hrobar
Support Services Commander

The Easton Police Department Support Services Division is responsible for the logistical support function for the entire Easton Police Department.

The Easton Police Department Support Services Division is primarily comprised of three units, Records Unit, Property & Evidence Unit, and the facilities Vehicle Management Unit. The members of these units work a standard 8–hour weekday shift.

The current staffing allocation for the Support Services Division is 1 Part-time fleet Management Specialist, 1 Evidence Collection Technician, 1 Property & Evidence Custodian, 2 Records Clerks, 1 Managerial Assistants, and 1 Lieutenant for a total manpower allocation of 2 officers and 5 civilians.





Police Officer

"On my honor I will never betray my badge, my integrity,
my character, or the public trust.
I will always have the courage to hold myself
and others accountable for our actions.
I will always uphold the Constitution and
community I serve, so help me God."



LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY 2020

Awards, Commendations and Certificates of Recognition



Pfc. Norman Sova
Officer of the Year
Patrol

The Patrol Division is the heartbeat of the agency. As the officers assigned to this division handle every call for service, traffic enforcement, and investigate violations of criminal law.

Pfc. Norman "Frank" Sova is assigned to the Patrol Division-Squad 1.

Pfc. Sova is described as a person that exhibits energy and excitement for the job. Pfc Sova is also a member of the Tactical Team where he thrives in that role. He is always willing to lend a hand to other squad members. Working through a pandemic such as COVID 19 really placed a burden on officers as they were facing an invisible threat to our community, though this created obstacles-it didn't stop the officers, such as Pfc. Sova from doing this job to the best of his abilities. Sova completed 97 reports and made 22 arrests (one of the highest in the division). He had 2 DUI arrests and 1 drug arrest. He completed 166 traffic stops and investigated 36 traffic accidents. He wrote 71 traffic citations and 143 warnings. He was able to produce these types of numbers while field training two new officers. Sova gives 100% and stands ready for any task assigned to him. That level of dedication and commitment is what all officers should strive for.



Pfc. Heather Hanson
Officer of the Year
Special Operations

In the year 2020, Detective Heather Hanson has proven herself to portray those qualities. She is assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit, Det. Hanson is credited with having made an impact in working critical cases. Det. Hanson is our certified cell phone extraction expert. She completes cell phone extraction for EPD and allied agencies this is a very in depth detailed assignment. Det. Hanson also wrote 41 search and seizure warrants, which was almost half of what Criminal Investigation Unit did totally.

In highlighting two of her cases will illustrate her attention to detail while focusing on justice for the victims. On June 5, 2020, Det. Hanson responded to Parkway Apartments for an overdose, she learned that the person who had overdosed had small children in the apartment. Det. Hanson partnered with the Talbot County Department of Social Services to make sure the children were okay as well as initiate an investigation into the wellbeing of the children. She also set out to find out who distributed the heroin to the person that overdosed. Through her investigation, Det. Hanson was able to identify who distributed the heroin and obtained digital evidence. Det. Hanson then obtained an arrest warrant for distribution and reckless endangerment for the suspect. Upon arresting the suspect, he was found to be in possession of 64 heroin capsules.

Det. Hanson is also part of the Maryland Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. In September of 2020, a Cyber Tip was provided to the Easton Police Department in regards to someone involved in the possession and distribution of child pornography. Det. Hanson was assigned the case and was able to identify the person who was involved. Det. Hanson also learned that the suspect had distributed Child Pornography to over 150 people on the internet. Det. Hanson obtained search and seizure warrants and arrested the suspect for distribution of child pornography.

Awards, Commendations and Certificates of Recognition



Ms. Renthia Thomas
Employee of the Year

Our members truly depend on the civilian staff as we all strive to accomplish the goals and missions of the Easton Police Department.

In 2020, MEO Renthia Thomas arrives to work every day with a positive attitude that is infectious. Being a MEO requires her to be walking around town interacting with the community, engaging them in conversation-such as answering their questions and giving them directions. She does this with the upmost professionalism and she takes great pride in being an ambassador to the police department. Daily she keeps in contact with the officers that are on duty and asking if she can be of assistance throughout her shift. She is eager to assist with traffic direction and school crossing assignments.

MEO Thomas is described by many as a dedicated professional and her attitude towards work and her work efficiency is an example for us all to follow.



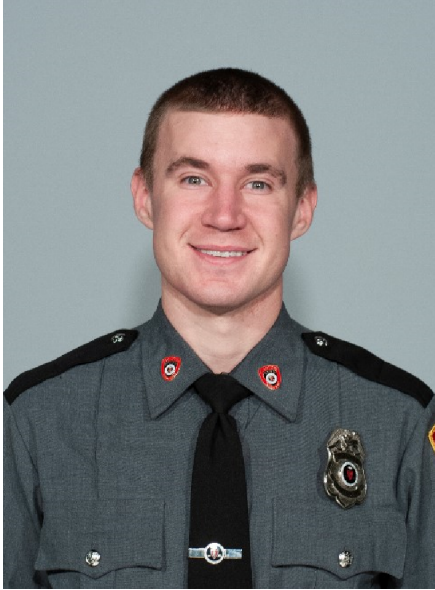
SPECIALIZED UNITS

Honor Guard	10
Tactical	11
Mobile Field Force	10
Negotiators	5
Accident Reconstruction	5
K9 Teams	4
Evidence Collection	2

**Tactical has 3 Sheriff's Deputies, 4
Talbot County Paramedics, 2 Emergency
Medicine Doctors. Negotiators has 1
Sheriff's Deputy.**

Awards, Commendations and Certificates of Recognition

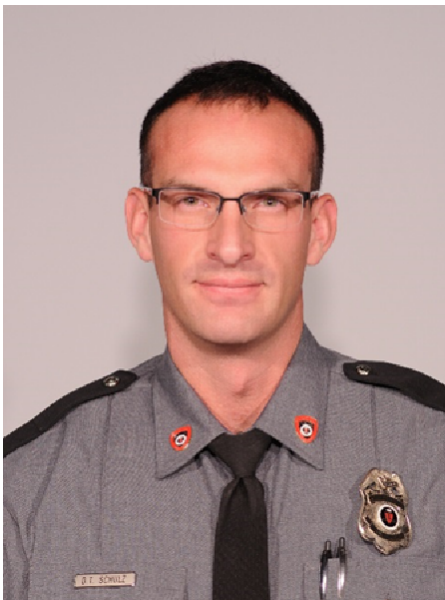
Officers of the Quarter 2020



Pfc. Cody Bland
Patrol Division
Officer of the 1st Quarter



Cpl. Brian Doyle
Patrol Division
Officer of the 2nd Quarter



Pfc. Dustin Schulz
Patrol Division
Officer of the 3rd Quarter



Ptl. Timothy Megee
Patrol Division
Officer of the 4th Quarter

Awards, Commendations and Certificates of Recognition

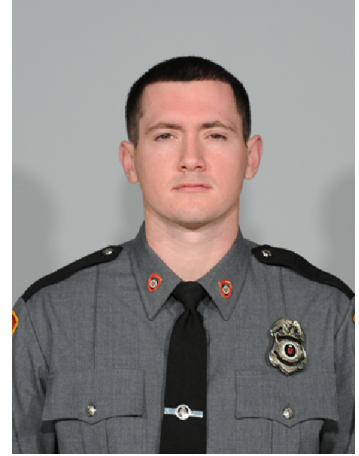
Top Performance



Pfc. Justin Reibly
Top Performance
CDS Arrests



Cpl. Howard Maxwell
Top Performance
DUI



Ptl. Timothy Megee
Top Performance
DUI



Cpl. Howard Maxwell
Top Performance
Occupant Protection



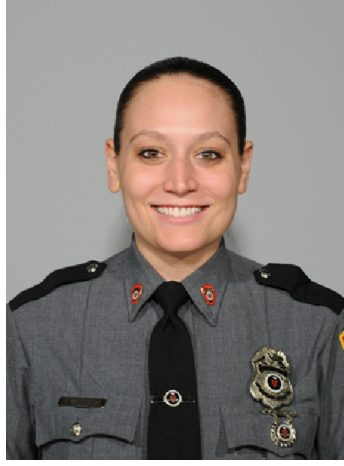
Cpl. Howard Maxwell
Top Performance
Traffic Stops

Awards, Commendations and Certificates of Recognition

Unit Citation



1st Sgt. Eric Kellner



Cpl. Megan Coxon



Pfc. Christopher Westerfield

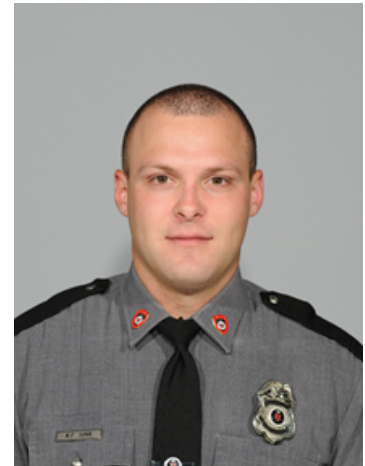
Lifesaving Award



Sgt. Jason Dyott



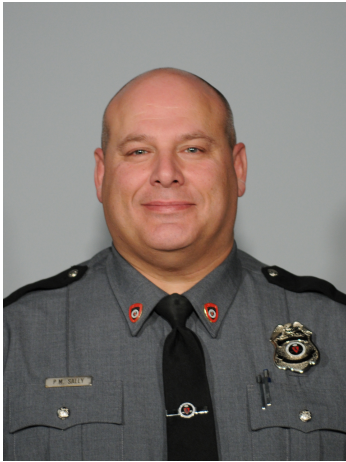
Cpl. Howard Maxwell



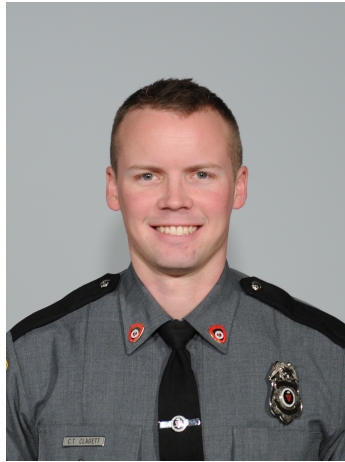
Pfc. Norman Sova

Awards, Commendations and Certificates of Recognition

Lifesaving Award



Sgt. Patrick Sally



Pfc. Christopher Clagett



Pfc. Cody Bland



Ptl. Andrea Kendall

Appointments and Promotions



Lt. Bradley Hughes

Date of Promotion:
08/07/20

Special Operations Commander



1st Sgt. Eric Kellner

Date of Promotion:
08/13/20

Executive Patrol Officer



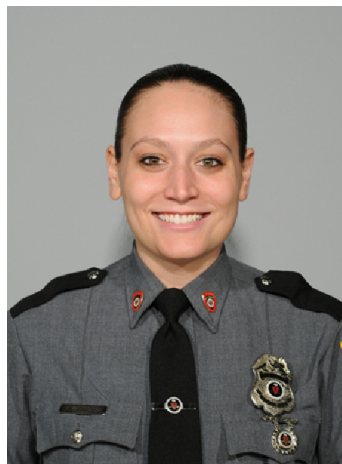
Sgt. Jason Dyott

Date of Promotion: 07/16/20
Currently assigned to Patrol



Sgt. Lenox Trams

Date of Promotion: 08/13/20
Currently assigned to Special
Operations



Cpl. Megan Coxon

Date of Promotion: 07/16/20
Currently assigned to
Bike Patrol



Cpl. Howard Maxwell

Date of Promotion: 08/13/20
Currently assigned to Patrol



Pfc. Kyle Willey

Date of Promotion:
01/16/20



Pfc. Dustin Schulz

Date of Promotion:
06/18/20

New Hires



Ptl. Paul C. Rineholt
DOE: 06/29/20



Rec. Christopher Doyle
DOE: 11/16/20



Rec. Nicholas Lange
DOE: 12/21/20



Rec. Catelin Clopein
DOE: 12/21/20

Service Award



Sgt. George Larrimore
20 years: 12/11/2000



Mrs. Dorothy Stichberry
20 years: 08/07/2000



Ms. Jaqueline Garvey
20 years: 11/20/2000



Mrs. Jessica Plugge
10 years- 12/27/2010



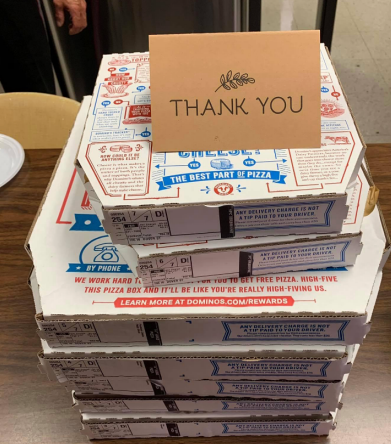
TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPLIED FOOD

Many thanks to all the citizens and businesses who have provided our staff with meals and snacks. These are very welcoming and appreciated.

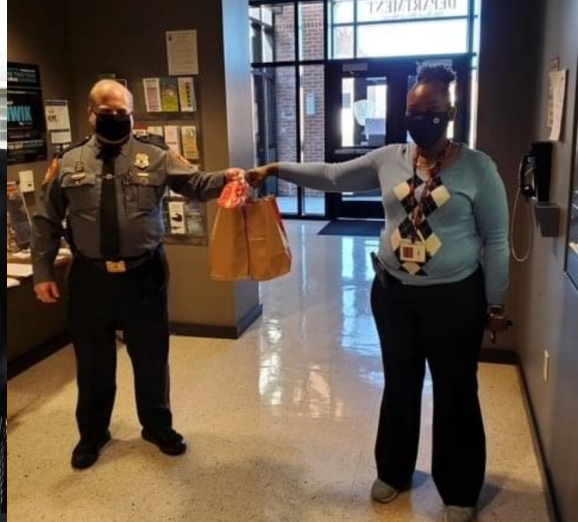


THANK YOU





Thank you!



The Weight of the Badge

Oval, star-shaped, or traditional;

Matte, silver, gloss or gold;

It's an honor for those who possess one.

Only earned; never bought or sold.

Captain Gregory S. Wright

To the public, it's viewed only as a shiny object;

Often representing all that's misunderstood.

However, when worn with the proper intentions,

it's a reflection of justice, and all that is good.

It does more than tug down at your shirt;

It elicits more than the authority it demands.

The weight of a badge is enormous.

Something no one else can understand.

The weight of the badge is sacrificing the time

belonging to those you love most.

Where your absence from them becomes the norm

and your presence more as a ghost.

The weight of a badge is not always welcomed.

It's doing what no one else wishes to do.

Exposing yourself to all forms of abuse.

Protecting thankless people you never knew.

The weight of the badge is being the bearer of sad news;

the voice to the most dreaded word.

Consoling those who lost a loved one;

wishing your words were never heard.

The weight of the badge is the inability to hold back tears,

when others are hurt and crying too.

But knowing when to remain unemotional and strong;

allowing others to show pain except you.

The weight of a badge is giving it your all;

long shifts under unfavorable conditions.

Functioning with just a little time for yourself;

to relax or chase down other ambitions.

The weight of a badge is a change in lifestyle;

Your conduct is always on display.

It doesn't matter whether you're on duty or not,

Your actions are judged every day.

*The weight of a badge will evoke a series of emotions
as you reflect and look back on your years of service.*

*The reality of no longer pinning it back on;
like the first time wearing it, feeling just as nervous.*

And as I reflect on my many years of service;

those who served too would agree

I now know why I've become who I am today;

....the weight of a badge made me.